

OREGON

TUALATIN

VALLEY

SEPTEMBER, 1982

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Po Box 5132 Beaverton, Oregon 97006

MEETING: Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm.....
Coffee, juice and cookies at BREAK time.....

PGE BUILDING-MURRAY AND SCHOLLS FERRY ROAD-BEAVERTON.

President:	Dick Powers	WB7ADM	Trustee:	Bob Orr	KB7CC
Vice-Pres:	Randy Cobb	KA7HJT	Trustee:	Mark Walker	W7CLU
Secretary:	Linda Cereghina	N7CZY	Trustee:	Al Berg	WB7SIC
Treasurer:	Warren Knight	N7BIJ	Trustee:	Roger Steyaert	K7RXV
			Trustee:	Bill Whiting	WA6VPA

Well, we have said it before and we will say it again! Programs given by a member are always outstanding and our August program was the proof. John, N6TY, did an excellent job of explaining 'Packet Radio' and it's future in amateur radio. One of our members, who usually nods off during our program, was alert and attentive. Maybe Wally got blackout contacts?? Anyway, many thanks to John Beaston for a very informative meeting program.

If any of the unfortunates who missed the meeting still think that we are not able to have our raffle, please note that all systems are go. The powers to be at the decision making level have given us their blessing!! Any further (complaints) attempts at undermining our meetings will be ignored.. So says PGE! This is GREAT news! It took almost half a year to find a place that would handle our large group and to have come so close to losing it was pretty upsetting to many of us. Sure hope that it wasn't a member who complained..... It is realized that it takes all kinds of people to make the wheels go round and, in the case of our raffle, there are those who do not believe in it as it may be construed as gambling. You are entitled to your beliefs. It takes money to operate a club and our annual dues of \$5.00 falls far short of taking care of the financial means. With the raffle, you have a choice. Buy tickets or don't buy tickets. With a higher annual dues structure you have a choice. Belong or don't belong. Which plan suits YOU best?? What it boils down to is that if you have no desire to take part in our raffle, don't do it. Nobody is going to come down on you for it. You should not have to feel bad if you can't afford to help out or if you have strong feelings against raffles. We do not make a lot of money on our giveaways but it is enough to help defray the cost of mailing what you are now reading! Besides, the winners go home happy. I haven't been happy for quite some time now but one of these days-----! A BIG THANKS TO DICK, OUR PRESIDENT, FOR SAVING US SUCH A NEAT PLACE TO MEET.....

Speaking of raffles, the BIG winnah!!! of the sought after Icom 290 was Wally, KC7TB. Wally says that he spent about \$25.00 on tickets for his prize worth over \$500.00. Pretty rough deal!! A very big thanks to Portland Radio for the SPECIAL price. Congratulations to Wally. Enjoy!!!!



THE TRUTH IS OUT !!!

Only a select few have known that Warren, our treasurer, has a twin brother who is also a ham. We wouldn't go so far as to say that the 'other Warren' has stood in for N7BIJ at meetings but it is very possible. Warren's little brother, he is two minutes younger, spells his name with one R. That is the only difference between them. Bet you all are really surprised by this. I sure was. Maybe Warren will bring Warren to a meeting?? Hope so.

WATT IS ELECTRICITY?
From AMATEUR RADIO (Wireless Institute of Australia)

Electricity is a colorless odorless gas which burns with a bright flame.

Light grows from a bulb.

An amp is a little animal that crawls along a wire. An Amp lives in an OHM. In summer an AMP lives in a COLOUMB. POLARIZATION is the changing of an OHM into a COLOUMB?

An AMMETER is an animal that eats AMPS.

A BATTERY fires AMPS round a CIRCUIT. An AMP rides round the circuit on a MEGACYCLE. MEGACYCLES are parked on a GRID. Flemmings Right Hand Rule states that: All AMPS must ride their MEGACYCLES on the right hand side of the wire. A CHARGE OCCURS when all the AMPS run down the CIRCUIT at the same time. All AMPS meet in an ACCUMULATOR.

And OERSTAD is an OHMSTEAD FOR ORSES.

A JOULE is a fight between two AMPS. You receive a shock when an AMP isn't wearing any shoes.

EDITOR'S NOTE: When WATT had read this he invented the STEAM ENGINE as a decent alternative ... and was then prematurely retired to the old VOLTS OHM.

(Originally appeared in Summerland ARC Newsletter)



SOME MEMBERS WHO
HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN
AT MEETINGS.....

KA7AHU	N7ALM
N7ALV	WB7BCW
N7BSB	K7BT
WB7CHU	N7CXE
N7CZB	WA7DCG
KA7DEX	KOEKP
WA7FNO	WA7GDS
K7HXA	KB7JU
KE7L	W7MAM
WA7MMM	WB7NPH
AB90	KOPB
WB7RKW	K7TRB
W6TRO	K7WWR
WA7YSU	WA6ZTG
W7ZVC	

There are more, of course, but no sense in brow-beating too many members at one time. Let's make our Sept. meeting the record for attendance. Vacations are over and there is now a better month to show up and say hi to old friends. CU THERE.....



ONE (LAST PLEA) WB7ADM

BY-LAW/CONSTITUTION REVISION IN TROUBLE

At press time, we had received a total of 121 of the 225 ballots mailed. In order to pass the revision, 150 affirmative ballots are required. To date, only 54% of our membership have expended the effort to return the postage paid, pre-addressed post card. This results underscores our need to get this revision passed, in order that those of us that really give a damn can get on with the day to day business of the club. For those of you that pay your dues in order to receive the monthly newsletter, I would ask that you give the rest of us the courtesy of returning your ballot, hopefully with an affirmative vote, so that we can get on with the business at hand. Come on folks, we only need 35 more yes votes to get this thing out of our way!

NOMINATION COMMITTEE GOES TO WORK

During late September and early October, your nomination committee will be hard at work, putting a slate of officers together for your consideration. Under the leadership of Al Berg, WB7SIC, the committee will attempt to present at least two officers for each position. This slate will be presented to you at the Oct. meeting. The membership will have from then until the November meeting to come up with additional nominations, to be presented from the floor during the November meeting. Once the nominations from the floor are received, the ballot will be put together and mailed immediately after the November meeting and the results tallied during the December meeting as usual. I would urge each of you to talk with your fellow club members and be ready to nominate a willing candidate if he has not already been selected by the nominating committee. Also, feel free to let Al know if you wish to seek an office, or if you know someone that you feel would be good for a position. It is my sincere hope that during this years election that anyone desiring an office would appear on the ballot. There should be no reason with this much time that anyone would feel left out and pick up their marbles and go home because they didn't make the ballot.

OTVARC PICNIC ENJOYED BY MANY

With fantastic support from the weatherman and a great turn-out by 100 plus of our members and their families, our weekend at the Makin farm was a huge success. A special vote of thanks are in order for Al WB7SIC and Dave W7LJN for their big show of sportsmanship while handcuffed to a fire grate, while scores of members vented a lot of pent up emotion with water filled balloons and eggs. This memory has been recorded on video tape for those of you that missed it, and will be shown during the social break at this months meeting. Dave and Al have already voted on next years target, so yours truly had better be prepared with an extra change of clothing!!! Other activities included a wild hunt for \$50 in coin that was tossed into 2 bales of straw for the youngsters, vollyball, horseshoes, archery, bingo, chess, a bunny hunt with hand helds, and last but not least, two kegs of beer and some great chow. Thanks to everyone that came out and made this a great OTVARC weekend!

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

'73 DICK

SEPTEMBER 15TH OTVARC FAMILY NIGHT

Our September meeting will take on a different format, in the form of family night. All regular business will be suspended for this meeting and the format will go something like this. The meeting will open with a NASA film dealing with the current space shuttle program, which should be of interest to young and old alike. This film is being sent to us by our popular convention speaker, Richard Underwood.

Following our film, we will adjourn to the cafeteria for a social hour. During the social period, coffee and punch will be served through the courtesy of the OTVARC treasury. Also, we would like each of you to bring a dozen cookies of your favorite variety, either homemade or the package variety.

For those of you that missed field day or the picnic, Ron WA7GFE will be showing video tapes of these events during the social break also.

Following the break, we will have door prizes for the YLs and also for the youngsters. (no ticket purchase required) Also, we will have a revised raffle for the members. This raffle will be limited to only three items and will be of greater single value. Input received during a recent board meeting indicated that this change was needed in order to conserve meeting time, so if this format is popular, we will continue it on a regular basis.

It is the hope of the program committee that for this meeting, everyone will bring the whole family out and enjoy an evening of fellowship and good old OTVARC fun. We have a few things lined up for the little ones also, so don't leave them at home. Just think, an OTVARC meeting where no baby sitter will be required!

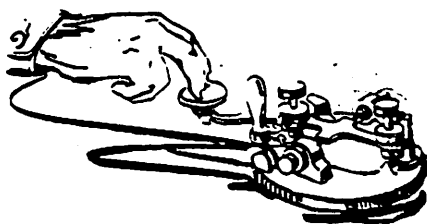
We would like very much to make this meeting the largest of the year, in terms of number present, and also perhaps the shortest since there will be no business allowed.

Please be sure and let the YL know about family night now, in order that she can pull out her favorite cookie recipe to show off to the group. We would strongly suggest you tell her now, or keep the 2 meter rig off, as we will be making announcements about the meeting as the time gets near.

The October program is scheduled now and it promises to be another dandy. Niel Robin WA7NBF has consented to present his popular program on Apple Computers and RTTY! This is the same show that was presented at the Convention with standing room only. Be sure and set aside Oct. 20th. for this fine program.

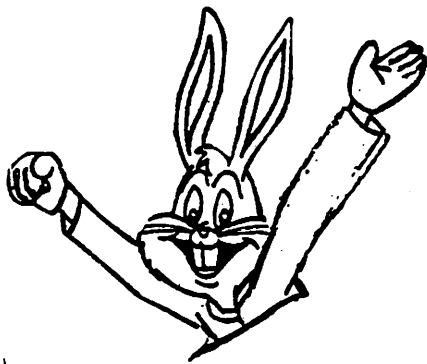
YL and HARMONIC DOOR PRIZES - NASA FILM - RAFFLE - SOCIAL HOUR - FUN

AUGUST PICNIC/CAMPOUT



This event was, by far, the most successful of it's kind. On Saturday there was over 100 people running around and taking part in the various fun and games set up by our social committee. The kiddies took great delight in the straw-pile coin hunt. Over \$50.00 collected by them and a few coins were found later on by some real hard-up members. Tch! The handheld bunny hunt was a real kick and N7CRQ along with KA7KKZ are to be congratulated for their patience and fortitude. Sitting 20' up on a tree limb for over two hours is definitely above (joke) and beyond the call. Elise had the best hiding place. She was ensconced in some bushes where she could watch Rock Creek flow by and watch the hunters get their footwear soaked in fording the creek. Long will be remembered K7WWR in his utter frustration yelling, 'WHERE ARE YOU'. Elise was about 30' away and had been passed up (by body count) over 50 times. Jack, KA7HOJ, somehow found KA7KKZ very quickly and dashed off to the campsite to sign in and then headed out to find N7CRQ. Jack got a goofy reading and ended up searching campers, tents, trailers and surrounding bushes when, in fact, Mark was across the creek and a 10 minute walk away. A number of the hunters found one of the quarry and in looking for the second, got frustrated what with the sweaty clothes, nettle stings, barbed wire scrapes and wet shoes. Those who persevered were rewarded! Exhaustion and the good feeling of a job well done. The winners were, in order, W7XI, KC7U, K7WWR, WB7SIC and WB7QFL. HOJ?? Well, let us say that he tried hard!!! We had a bingo game, sack race, egg toss, (shudder) a balloon toss, (shudder) a very lively volleyball game and, if you would believe, an archery enthusiast tournament. The interest in archery surpassed everything! It went on for a number of hours, both on Friday evening as well as Saturday and Sunday. From now on the club should be known as the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Archery and Radio Club. We had about 40 or 50 people camped out for the weekend and it was just great. Card games, chit-chat, good food and more. You may have noticed the (shudder) italics in regard to balloons and eggs. Yours truly and Dave, W7LJN, volunteered to be targets for a little fund raising event. Dave was the first to take his lumps and after he was thoroughly sopped, I got my turn. I say, with mixed emotions, that at 25¢ an egg and 25¢ per balloon, I raised more money than Dave. It could be that family had something to do with it but I believe that Dave bought about \$5.00 worth of ammunition. If this is true, I am very sorry that I spent only \$2.00 on Dave! Sorry to go on so long about a PAST event but if history repeats itself, many will say 'Gee, if I had known that it was going to be so much fun, I would have been there'. How long is it going to take to convince some of our members that our outside activities are a lot more fun than staying home and playing radio, mowing the lawn or missing a favorite TV program?????? There are all kinds of week-ends to take care of the chores. Save the very few that we take up and attend! Your officers and committees try VERY hard to please YOU. Do likewise and you will benefit by it.. Sure hope to see you at the next FUN event!!

BUNNY HUNT SCHEDULE



Saturday, Sept. 18 is the next bunny hunt scheduled to take place in Beaverton. Departure point will be from Chucks Northwagon at the Beaverton Mall and participants are asked to be there by 1:30pm. This is an intermediate hunt.

Sunday, Sept. 26 is the date for the beginner class hunt held in Vancouver. Don't know the time or meeting area but if you are on 2m you should not have any problem in getting the info.



NEWS

BULLETIN

REBUTTAL Dear Editor: In a recent article published in the OTVARC newsletter, you mentioned an easy method was available to measure tower height. By placing a yardstick vertically and waiting until the shadow cast by the sun also measured 3 feet (yardstick length) you could then, at that time, measure the shadow cast by the tower

to determine it's height. I must differ with you on the issue since, when you measure the shadow along the ground horizontally, you can only determine the LENGTH of the tower and NOT the height. Signed Sincerely, An Extra Expert

(editors note) This joker thinks he is really swift. Well, he missed a great opportunity to really clown around. How long would you have to wait before you had a shadow to use?

PLEASE---MAIL IN YOUR VOTING CARD TODAY. WE NEED MORE FOR A QUORUM. ---PLEASE!!!!

THIRD PARTY ARRANGEMENTS - The United States has arrangements to permit U.S. amateur radio stations to exchange third party communications with amateur radio stations in these countries: (alphabetical order)

Antigua, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. The United States also has an agreement with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) permitting third party communications with its station 4U1ITU in Geneva, Switzerland.

The FCC cautioned that "International third party communications are limited by the International Radio Regulations, which state in part that they shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified."

Recent additions to the third party list are Antigua, Australia and St. Lucia. The country of Belize (formerly British Honduras) has been recently added to the list of reciprocal agreements. Further information can be obtained from the Private Radio Bureau's Personal Radio Branch, (202) 632-4964.

IT'S YOUR DAY FOR NET CONTROL WHEN---

1. The weather forecast is for lightening storms all day.
2. Your wife/husband says, "Tonight, let's go out to eat."
3. You wake up and the power is off.
4. Your child has a special event that only you can help out.
5. Your auxiliary generator wasn't returned from Field Day and the power is off.
6. You look for the rig that you took to the QSO party last night as you need it in 30 minutes.
7. The newspaper lists tonight as the last night to see the show you promised you'd take the family to see.
8. The pregnant dog starts to make a nest under the hamshack table.
9. The linking system to the repeater suddenly starts malfunctioning.



HELP YOUR CLUB AND YOURSELF..

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FOR SALE: Astatic D 104 with 10 DA head. Cheep at \$20.00.
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WANTED : 2 sections of Rohn 25G tower. KC7RC at 648-7067.....

FOR SALE: Converted 10m mobile rig. Works GREAT! A1--640-5456.

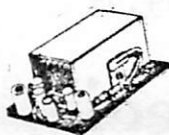
GARAGE SALE: Sept. 17-18-19. at 3865 SW 202nd St. in Aloha. Old radio books, radio parts, antiques and more. Lots of items in very good cdx. John Reed, KA7KDF.

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Technical tips

Mickey McDaniel, W6FGE
Here are a few technical tips which I
have used to good advantage. Perhaps
they may help you.

Double shielded coax — as close as your
kitchen cabinet. Aluminum foil, of course!
Does a good job on inside runs — between
units, back of equipment. Fasten it on
with Scotch tape. Ground it.

Ignition noise suppression — same
stuff! Tape the aluminum foil tight — the
engine fan tends to drag it off the wiring
otherwise. Works great with electronic ig-
nition system interconnect wires. Ground
it.

Coax fitting weather proofing — In-
stead of the expensive spread, use heat
shrink tubing.



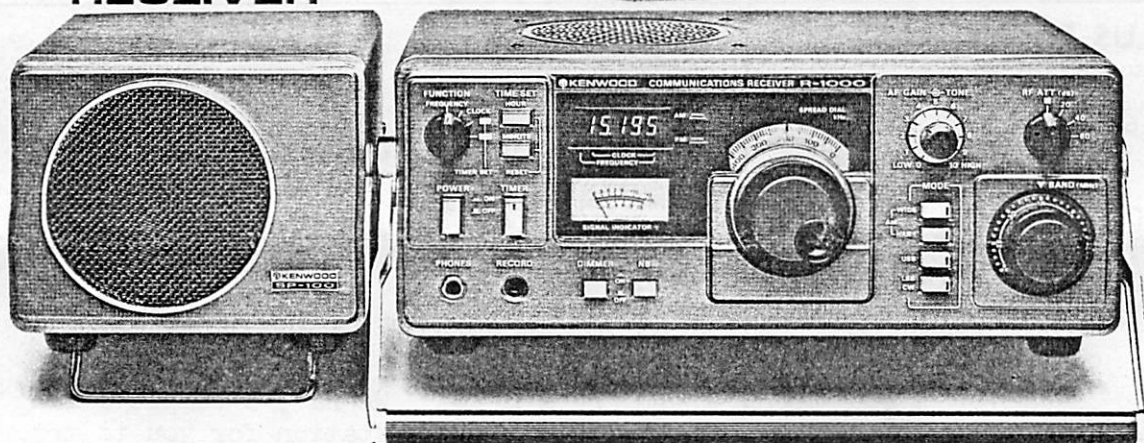
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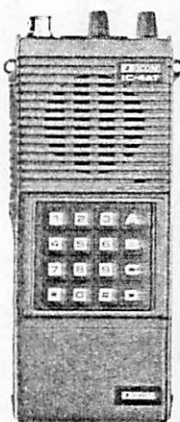
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Each unit comes complete with BP3 Battery Pack, AC Wall Charger, Belt Clip and Flexible Antenna.

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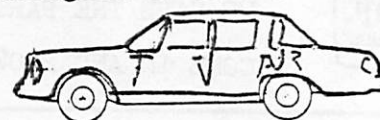
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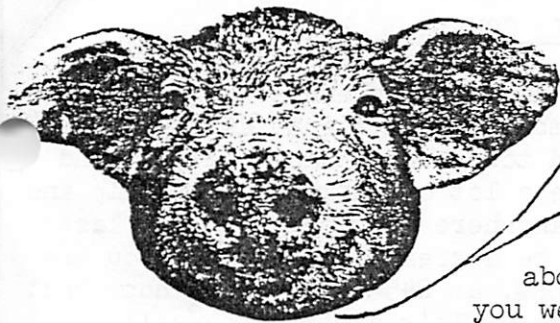
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HOWDY
COUSIN !

NEW MEMBERS

Once again we have a large increase in membership. If we ever get back to the 75 to 80% membership attendance at meetings the old joke about moving to the coliseum may become reality. Would you welcome please, the following hams to our group!!

Skip Leonard, KC5BO--John Goss, WB7NJE--Herb Hochfeld, KA7LFL--Colleen Utter, KA7MDC--Victoria Wildes, KA7NYZ--Jim Bernklau, W7JOI--Gary Dewyn, KA6CAA--Dee Lynch, KA7NPN--Chuck Conway, WD5GEQ. WHEW!! Welcome to you all to the funnest, friendliest and fastest growing club in ????? If you would like to get involved in any area of club operation, grab a roster at the next meeting and check out the committee chair people. You will find name and phone number in case you would like to help. OUR CLUB NOW NUMBERS 223.....

UPGRADES AND CALL CHANGES?? Haven't heard any on the air. If you have made any change, please call one of the officers or your editor. We would like to see YOUR achievement in the monthly rag.

RECIPE GOOF: The July newsletter had a very tasty recipe in it and somehow a non-cook got things messed up and it has cost a few members households a loss of expensive ingredients. MY apologies for the error. The 'Field Day Dump Cake' uses 2 CUBES of margarine and not 2 cups. Bring your wheelbarrow of stones over to my house and I will take my lumps. By appointment only, please. 640-5456!!!

OR
2
Tbsp.

DXCC: In the July letter we made notice of Warren, N7BIJ, and his recently acquired 150 countries. Don't intend to make this a 'can you top this' type of thing but it is well to note an even bigger accomplishment. Larry Ogburn, KC7QV, just confirmed his 160th country. This was done on SSB and totally in the general band. Not only that, he did it in ten months. Friends, that is a tough way to go and indicates a whole bunch of air time. Congrats to you, Larry, and deepest sympathy to the wife.....

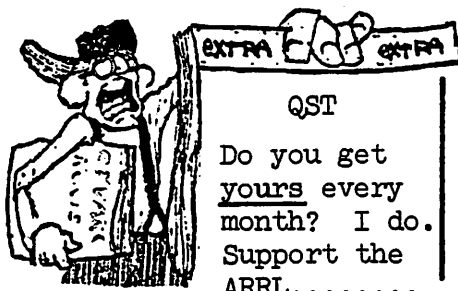
LOGS-LOGS: Don't forget to get your VHF contest logs in to KA7CTP by mail or at the September meeting. You just might win a prize.

CONTEST COMMITTEE MEETING: The committee will have an open meeting designed to plan our 1983 list of fun and games. ANYONE who is interested is asked to attend. The date is Monday, September 20 and the time will be 7:00 pm. Where? At the home of Marty, KA7CTP. If you need directions, give Marty a call at 644-9244.

HAM CLASSES: Our fall classes will start on Monday, September 27 at 7:00pm. The location will be Cedar Park Elementary School which is just off Cedar Hills Blvd.. If you are interested in code classes, they will start on Tuesday the 28th at 7:00pm and will also be at Cedar Park School. Want to upgrade or have a friend desiring to get into ham radio? Here is the opportunity. Please register via Rock Creek Community College or if you make a last minute decision, you may sign up at the first class given. Talk it up! Let's have a GREAT turnout.....

CLUB JACKETS & BADGES: Things have been rather slow recently as regards the sign ups for jackets and badges. True, summer months do not contribute to ones urge to stay warm but be aware that it takes about sixty days to get a jacket order returned. As far as badges are concerned, personal identification at meetings is VERY important. We all would like to know who YOU are and YOU would like to know who WE are. If you have an ID badge, please wear it. If you don't, the order form is on the club secretaries table. A very cheep \$2.00.... Let's get acquainted!!!!

HAVE YOU HUGGED YOUR OTVARC TODAY?



A BIKEATHON IS COMING

The Diabetes Association is having it's annual fund drive on Sunday the 26th of September. This event takes place in just about every city and town surrounding the Portland metro area. It will require a lot of communication help and if the response to help is anywhere as good as it was last year, the fund drive should be a great success. If you are able to help, call Mark, N7CRQ, at 245-1230. Sure hope that comes through with lots of aid. It's a worthy cause!!

PLEASE JOIN THROUGH THE CLUB AND ALSO-RENEW!!!!

SINCLAIR RESEARCH DROPS ANOTHER HOME COMPUTER BOMBSHELL!

Clive Sinclair is the epitome of what the absent minded professor should look like! He is a 42 year old wiry, thin, stoop shouldered, squinty-eyed balding British fellow with a red goatee like beard.... and intellectually brilliant. Clive never finished college and was a technical journalist in his early days. He jogs 6 miles a day. When he was 21, he founded Sinclair Radionics (Islington, England) and sold matchbox radios and hi-fi amplifiers via mail order from his home. At 27 he invented the pocket calculator - at 35 he received the "Queen's Award to Industry" a prestigious award for technological innovation.

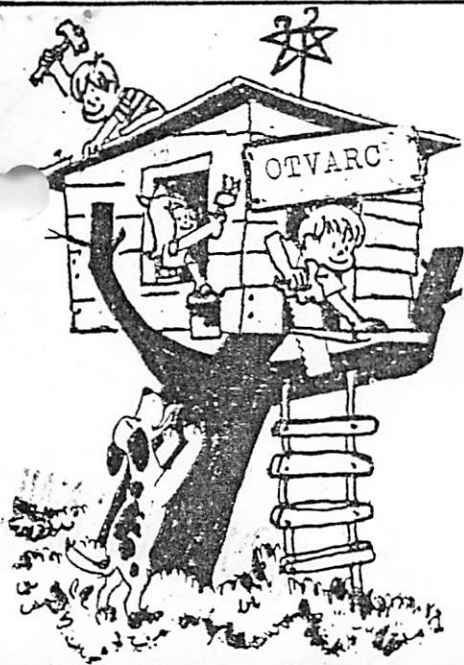
In July 1979, after a financial difference of opinion with some backers, Clive pulled out of Sinclair Radionics and formed Sinclair Research of which he owns 95%. His ZX-80 4-chip computer catapulted him into millionaire status. His newer ZX-81 is selling at the rate of fifty thousand a month and over 500,000 have been sold! Sinclair's pet project of a pocket (2" screen) television and low cost battery operated automobile are on schedule.

Now, not wishing to rest on his laurels, Sinclair has dropped another bomb on the home computer market. His brand new (not seen yet in this country) "Spectrum" \$200 (16K) microcomputer has a full calculator-type keyboard, fully "memory mapped" Z80A CPU, a real-time clock.... even an audio output and a full color display! Sinclair is currently seeking FCC approval for the RF modulator with which the computer is hooked to a TV antenna. Sinclair BASIC uses single keystrokes for all keywords and commands. All of the 256X192 pixels are directly addressable for full color graphic capability. Size of the ZX Spectrum is a small 9 by 5 by 1 inch! A \$90 ZX microdrive (3" floppy disk) and RS-232 interface output will be available for it this year!

But what about the \$100 ZX-81. Sinclair has turned over its marketing to Timex who have over 100,000 retail outlet U.S. customers. (He will earn a 5% royalty on every unit sold.) You can look for the 2K (expandable to 18K) "Timex/Sinclair 1000" to turn up in such outlets as K-Mart, J.C. Penney and the like by July! They all do a big Timex (watch) business! The Timex/Sinclair 1000 is made by Timex using Sinclair technology in Dundee, Scotland.

There will be renewed pressure on competing firms to reduce their prices even further. Look for Radio Shack, Atari and Commodore to react! Rumor has it that Radio Shack will reduce prices within 30 days! (We couldn't substantiate this.) The new Sinclair "Spectrum" has all of the starter computer makers very concerned. It will be interesting to see what happens.

But if all of this isn't enough to give ulcers to the nations personal computer manufacturers, the announcement by Japan's Casio Computer Company should do the trick! They plan to introduce a home computer in Tokyo within 60 days that will retail for \$63! It is only a matter of time before the PB100 reaches our shores. Things happen so fast in the personal computer business that it is hard to keep track of the teams and players..... much less the score.



World's Fair station

The World's Fair Amateur Radio station, which will operate the duration of the fair through October 1982, is using the call sign WA4KFS. All QSL cards are being handled by Harvey Cross, W4PKM. More information and an operating schedule can be obtained by writing to the Tennessee Wireless Association, in care of Jerry Goodchild, K4DZR, 3701 Warner Drive, Apt. 213, Knoxville, TN 37912.

—Santa Clara County ARA, CA

BUNNY HUNTING WITH A BOW????

We had a lot of archers at the club picnic and it appears that a couple of people are getting serious about bowstrings and chicken feathers. Most know that ADM has not been too good at finding the bunny with an antenna. Well, Dick has solved his problem. After the picnic, he went out and bought two nice compound bows for himself and Joanne. Let us hope that they have target practice and deer in mind and not a volunteer bunny. Seriously, our picnic got a number of people either interested in archery or stirred some to get re-interested. Now all Dick needs is two horses, some grease paint and a couple of feather bonnets. Gettun up Scout.

OPERATING PROCEDURES-TRAFFIC HANDLING

Our Public Service/Emergency Service committee is putting on a special class to be held the 22nd of Sept. at 7:30 pm. The location has not been firmed up as yet so we hope to make it known at our regular meeting as well as on the ARES net. This class will be conducted by Ron, WA7GFE and it should help the many people who have requested a program on traffic handling and message work. Seems to be a lot of mystery in how to fill out a radiogram so if you want to learn, here is your chance. Operating at a public service event will also be covered. CU there!!!

CQ MA BELL

CQ MA BELL

Someone told me about an idea Ma Bell is supposed to have come out with a few years ago to replace Amateur Radio. Thought you'd like to know about it now, since the emerging and retracting nations at the WARC meeting were demanding more space in the high, very high and giggle-hertz frequencencies. (The big powers have 10% of the population and 90% of the radio spectrum and we intend to reverse that, etc.)

The idea is that the telephone companies would distribute random groups of phone numbers of folks who enjoy talking with strangers. Instead of calling CQ on the wireless, members of the American Relay Telephone League would dial random numbers. Prizes, I suppose, would be given for "Phoned All States," "Called All Florida Counties Collect," and nets would be conducted on party lines or through conference calls.

Lean back and let your imagination flow

The phone rings and a voice says, "Hello, this is (303) 288-4661. The handle is Shorty. I'm using a Princess handset with a lighted dial. How do you read me, old man? Over."

And the guy on the other end says, "Colorado! Hot finals! I've had a few (916s) but this is my first (303) QSO. I read you loud and clear on my red Ericaphone. Mind telling me your ringer equivalent? My handle here is Frank."

"My ringer equivalent is one-point-two, Frank. This is a straight, barefoot rig.. I tried a mod on it; one of those receiver-ease type 6l shoulder rests for long QSOs but the darn thing does not fit tightly enough. To be candid about it, I'm thinking of trading the whole staion in on a GTE Flipphone with the push buttons that give rotary pulses, so you don't have to pay for Touch Tone."

"You a Touch-tone operator?"

"Most of the time. I used to have hot fist with the old dial but I guess I'm getting lazy. I don't know."

"Shorty, have you heard that the FCC is considering a new Amateur rating that would not require a rotary-dial proficiency test?"

"No."

"Fact! Read about it in a thing from the Land-Line Lovers Linkage League. Some sort of restricted license, but no rotary dialing test involved."

"That's crazy, Frank! What would some kid do in an emergency, like he was locked in a pay phone booth that had a rotary dial phone? Couldn't even raise the operator."

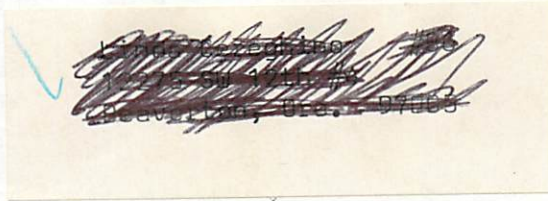
"Serve him right, too. I tell you it's all getting too easy. First they took away the crank on the side, and you didn't have to memorize how many rings for different people. Then came those push buttons. I understand you can buy a gadget now where you just push one button down next to a name and the thing dials the number for you all by itself."

"That's terrible!"

"Right. Amateur phoning is getting too simple. Well, it's after eleven and the overseas lines are at half cost now and not nearly so crowded. So, I'll let you go and thanks for the QSO and we can look each other up in the directories for addresses and send each other QSL cards. Okay?"

"Roger. (303) 288-4461 clear with Colorado. And good luck on the overseas calls. I really admire you DX hounds."

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